REMARKS

Claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43, 44, 47, 51 and 53 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each.

The Examiner's withdrawal of the finality of the prior ground of rejection is acknowledged with appreciation.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,934,738 to Furusawa et al. ("Furusawa"). Furusawa describes an apparatus for processing messages over a network, explicitly notifying the recipient of particular information regarding each message. Key information is extracted from each message, and there is provided a table that defines for the various key information a relevant handler program for dealing with the message. This provides an improvement on prior art mechanisms such as "importance flags" or customizable screening filters. Whereas the prior art provides a flag (e.g. "!") indicating that the message is important, Furusawa provides a series of measures (i.e. implemented with a message handler "plug in") adapted to more adequately assure that the receiver considers the important aspect of the message. For example, if the sender applies a <must read> keyword to a message, then the associated message handler at the receiver end will invoke a primitive process that will 1) display a note that says "a must read message has just arrived", but if the receiver does not immediately read the message the handler then follows that up with further primitive processes that will 2) display a message that says "there

is a must-read message in your inbox" and, if the receiver attempts to delete the message, 3) display a warning message that says "you are deleting a must-read message!" Furusawa also provides that the handler programs may be updated over the network. This is accomplished by notices sent by a distributing station when a modification is made to a handler program, whereupon the notice triggers a downloading of the updated handler program files by the receiver.

By contrast, the present invention is responsive to a different need. Whereas Furusawa is concerned with "message handlers", the present invention is concerned with displays which accompany a message or web page. In particular, the files (image or sound) which are to be displayed with the message or web page may be large files that would take a long time to download (page 3, lines 1-2) and if there are multiple such files to be displayed concurrently they must be separately downloaded (page 3, lines 17-19), thereby frustrating the objective of concurrent display. This is especially significant where the image or sound files constitute the gist of the communication (see page 4, lines 19-21). Current browser technology minimizes the need to download the same files from a web page multiple times by maintaining a cache of downloaded images, but this does not avoid multiple downloads of the same image files from multiple web sites (page 3, lines 22-24).

The mechanism of the invention, using keywords in downloaded text (on a web page or in an email) to invoke displays of image and/or sound files that have previously been downloaded, enables automatic and concurrent display without the delays required for downloading. It is a specific concern of the invention to address the problem of large size data (page 3, lines 11-16) of multimedia files such as image or voice data. There is no indication in Furusawa of this concern, or of the attendant concern of the time required – and consequent delays – to transmit such large files

over a communications medium such as the Internet. Indeed, reflecting this lack of concern, the table in Furusawa does not provide for an indication of the image or sound to be displayed by the display mechanism. Instead, the table in Furusawa simply shows a "message handler" that is to be invoked. Further, there is no indication in Furusawa that image or sound files will be displayed by the message handler. While the "message handler" provides a "display method" because it writes text to the screen (e.g. "a must read message has just arrived", col. 4, line 29) or generates a dialog box (e.g. Fig. 14), the table in Furusawa does not identify a sound or image file for display with the message.

It will be noted that Fig. 5 identifies the image or sound file in the table, and the specification refers to "predetermined background images and predetermined effective sounds" (page 24, lines 20-21). Fig. 8 similarly identifies the image or sound file in the table, and the specification refers to "the data defining the image data and the effective sound data" (page 29, lines 18-19). The difference between Fig. 5 and Fig. 8 is that in Fig. 8 the image or sound data itself is included in the table, whereas in Fig. 5 there is a pointer to the image or sound files. But in both cases, whether directly or indirectly, the sound or image files are identified in the table. It should also be noted that this distinction is further detailed in the claims in the distinction between "designating data" (i.e. the pointer to the image or sound files, as in claim 4) and "necessary data" (i.e. the image or sound files themselves, as in claim 5).

Consequently, the claims have been amended to more clearly describe the invention, replacing the term "display method" with "identified image or sound files" and using the more direct language "display ... with ... the identified image or sound files" rather than "display ... in accordance with ... display method." Since this form

of the table appears in all the independent claims, and therefore all the dependent claims, this ground of rejection is overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,928,325 to Shaughnessy et al. ("Shaughnessy") in view of Furusawa. Shaughnessy discloses a method of dynamically establishing communication of incoming messages to one or more user devices by intelligently coupling a central agent to a plurality of communication networks. Shaughnessy uses a table lookup to determine what user devices are currently logically assigned to the identified recipient of the message (col. 5, lines 1-3), and also uses a table lookup to identify user-device select rules (col. 5, lines 17-21). But these "tables" have no relation to the tables used in the present invention. The Examiner recognizes this by relying upon Furusawa for "the table showing retrieval conditions and corresponding display method".

However, in view of the above described amendments to the claims the Furusawa reference is distinguished and it is clear that Shaughnessy cannot provide the teaching missing from Furusawa about image and sound files identified in the table. Since this form of the table appears in all the independent claims, and therefore all the dependent claims, this ground of rejection is overcome.

In summary, it is believed that the current amendments particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention, distinguishing the prior art of record, and that all rejections of record have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-29, 31-38, 40-47 and 49-55 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.
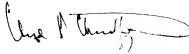
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde R Christofferson
Reg. No. 34,138

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.   **Customer No. 30743**
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
703-787-9400
703-787-7557 (fax)